

detecting means for detecting [if] the presence or absence of the ink ribbon

[is present or absent] in said receiving means and for providing a signal to said control means

indicative of the presence or absence of the ink ribbon, said control means acting to control said

thermal print head to operate in said first mode of operation when the ink ribbon is present and

said second mode of operation when the ink ribbon is not present, wherein said detecting means is

arranged to detect, when said driving means is activated, a characteristic indicative of movement

of the ink ribbon to determine if an ink ribbon is present.

25. (Twice Amended) A tape printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein in

said first mode of operation, the image receiving tape and the ink ribbon are received in a first

cassette and in a second cassette, and in said second mode of operation, the image receiving tape

is received in a second cassette.

28. (Twice Amended) A tape printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein

said detecting means is positioned to detect a characteristic indicative of the power consumed by

said driving means, [said drive means being positioned] such that the power consumed [thereby] is

greater when the ink ribbon is present as compared to when no ink ribbon is present.

37. (Thrice Amended) A tape printing apparatus for printing an image on an image

receiving tape, comprising:

a thermal print head for printing an image on the image receiving tape, said

thermal print head having a first mode of operation and a second mode of operation;

receiving means for receiving in said first mode of operation a supply of

image receiving tape and a supply of ink ribbon for providing an image on the image receiving

tape, and in said second mode of operation a supply of thermally sensitive image receiving tape;

control means for controlling said thermal print head;

means for directing the image receiving tape along a first path in said first mode of operation and the thermally sensitive image receiving tape along a second path in said second mode of operation; and

detecting means for determining [if] when the image receiving tape follows said first path or the thermally sensitive image receiving tape follows said second path for providing a signal to said control means indicative of the path of the image receiving tape and the thermally sensitive imaging tape, said control means being positioned to control said thermal print head to operate in said first mode of operation [if] when the image receiving tape follows said first path and said second mode of operation [if] when the thermally sensitive image receiving tape follows said second path.

38. (Thrice Amended) A tape printing apparatus for printing an image on an image receiving tape, comprising:

a thermal print head for printing an image onto the image receiving tape, said thermal print head having a first mode of operation and a second mode of operation;

receiving means for receiving in said first mode of operation a supply of image receiving tape and a supply of ink ribbon for providing an image on the image receiving tape, and in said second mode of operation a supply of thermally sensitive image receiving tape;

control means for controlling said thermal print head;

driving means for driving the image receiving tape and the ink ribbon, when present, past said thermal print head; and

detecting means for detecting a characteristic indicative of the presence or absence of the ink ribbon, and for providing a signal to said control means indicative of the presence or absence of the ink ribbon, said control means controlling said thermal print head to

operate in said first mode of operation when the ink ribbon is present and in said second mode of operation when no ink ribbon is present, wherein said detecting means is arranged to detect a characteristic indicative of the power consumed by said driving means, such that said driving means [consuming] consumes more power when the ink ribbon is present as compared to when no ink ribbon is present.

39. (Thrice Amended) A tape printing apparatus for printing an image on an image receiving tape, comprising:

a thermal print head for printing an image on the image receiving tape, said thermal print head having a first mode of operation and a second mode of operation;

receiving means for receiving in said first mode of operation a supply of the image receiving tape and a supply of ink ribbon for providing an image on the image receiving tape, and in said second mode of operation a supply of thermally sensitive image receiving tape;

control means for controlling said thermal print head;

driving means for driving the image receiving tape and the ink ribbon, when present, past said thermal print head; and

detecting means for detecting a characteristic indicative of the presence or absence of the ink ribbon and for providing a signal to said control means indicative of the presence or absence of the ink ribbon, said control means controlling said thermal print head to operate in said first mode of operation when the ink ribbon is present and said second mode of operation when no ink ribbon is present, and said detecting means is positioned to detect a characteristic of the load applied to said driving means, such that the load applied to said driving means is [being] greater when the ink ribbon is present as compared to when no ink ribbon is present.